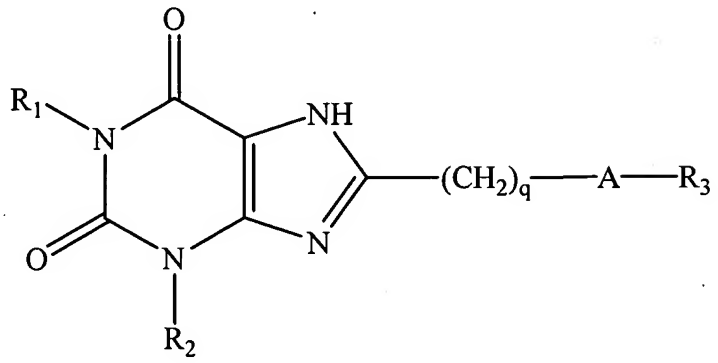
Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

A is a 5- or 6-membered ~~aromatic or~~ heteroaromatic ring containing [[0]] 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, and S;

R_2 is of the formula (i):

$$(CH_2)r\text{———}A'\text{——}R_4 \qquad \textbf{(i)}$$

wherein:

A' is a ~~5- or~~ 6-membered aromatic or heteroaromatic ring containing 0 to 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, and S;

r is an integer ranging from 1 to 20;

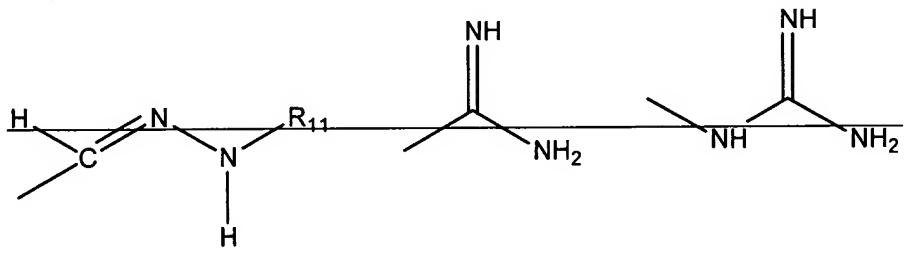
R_4 is selected from the group consisting of H; NH_2; $(CH_2)_SOH$, wherein s is an integer ranging from 1 to 8; COOH; $R_{14}COOH$, wherein R_{14} is an ~~alkyl~~ alkylene or alkylidene group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms[[,]]; halo, NHR_8, NR_8R_9, $NHCOR_8$, NR_8COR_9, SO_3H and PO_3H_2;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H, NH_2, $R_{15}COOH$, wherein R_{15} is an ~~alkyl~~ alkylene or alkylidene group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and $(CH_2)_tOH$, wherein t is

an integer ranging from 1 to 8; halo, NHR_8, NR_8R_9, $NHCOR_8$, NR_8COR_9, SO_3H and PO_3H_2;

q is an integer ranging from 1 to 8; and

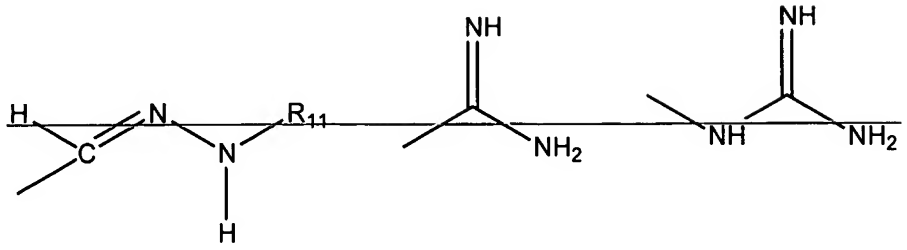
[[or]] R_1 ~~or R_2~~ is a C_1-C_8 alkanyl group, C_2-C_8-alkenyl- or [[C2-C8]] C_2-C_8-alkynyl- group which is optionally substituted by -CN, $-CH_2NR_6R_7OH$, $-OR_8$, $-NR_6R_7$, $-NHCOR_8$, $NHCONR_6R_7$, halogen, $-OCOR_8$, $-OCH_2COOH$, $-OCH_2COOR_8$, $-SO_2R_5$, -S-R_5, ~~NHCONH phenyl,~~ $-OCH_2$-$CONR_6R_7$, $-OCH_2CH_2OH$, $-SO_2$-CH_2-CH_2-O-COR_8, $-OCH_2$-CH_2-NR_6R_7, $-SO_2$-CH_2-CH_2-OH, $-CONHSO_2R_8$, $-CH_2CONHSO_2R_8$, $-OCH_2CH_2OR_8$, -COOH, --$COOR_8$, $-CONR_6R_7$, -CHO, $-SR_8$, $-SOR_8$,$-SO_2R_8$, $-SO_3H$, $-PO_3H_2$, $-SO_2NR_6R_7$, $-OCH_2$-CH_2OCOR_8, -CH=NOH, $-CH=NOR_8$, $-COR_9$, $-CH(OH)R_9$, $-CH(OR_8)_2$, -CH=CH-R_{10}, $-OCONR_6R_7$,



~~or by 1,3-dioxolane or 1,3-dioxane which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted by methyl; or~~

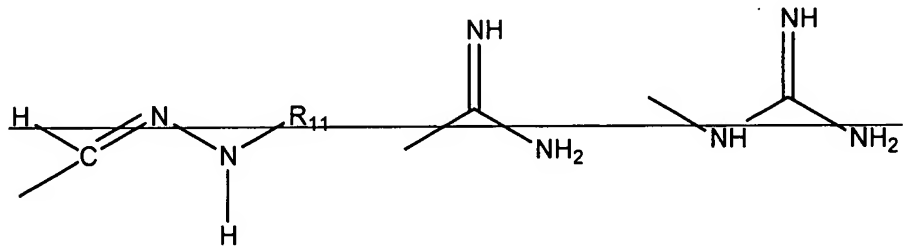
~~denotes phenyl-C_1-C_6-alkylene, phenyl-C_2-C_6-alkenylene or phenyl-C_2-C_6-alkynylene, in which the phenyl ring is optionally substituted, either directly or via a C_1-C_4-alkylene group, with one or more of the following groups: C_1-C_3-alkyl, -CN, $CH_2NR_6R_7$, $-NO_2$, -OH, $-OR_8$, $-CH_2$-NH-SO_2-R_8, $-NHCOR_8$, $-NHCONR_6R_7$, halogen, $OCOR_8$, $-OCH_2OOOH$, $-OCH_2COOR_8$, $-CH_2OCOR_8$, $-SO_2R_5$, $-OCH_2$-$CONR_6R_7$, OCH_2CH_2OH, $-OCH_2$-CH_2-NR_6R_7, $-CONHSO_2R_8$, $-OCH_2CH_2OR_8$, -COOH, $-COOR_8$, $-CF_3$, cyclopropyl, $-CONR_6R_7$, $-CH_2OH$, $-CH_2OR_8$, -CHO, $-SR_8$, $-SOR_8$, $-SO_2R_8$, $-SO_3H$, $-PO_3H_2$, $-SO_2NR_6R_7$, $-OCH_2$-CH_2OCOR_8, -CH=NOH, $-CH=NOR_8$, $-COR_9$, $-CH(OH)R_9$, $-CH(OR_8)_2$, $-NHCOOR_8$, $-CH_2CONHSO_2R_8$, -CH=CH-R_{10}, $-OCONR_6R_7$, $-CH_2$-O-~~

~~$CONR_6R_7$, $-CH_2-CH_2-O-CONR_6R_7$,~~



~~or by 1,3-dioxolane or 1,3-dioxane which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted by methyl; or~~

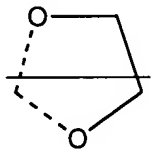
~~denotes C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl-C_1-C_6-alkylene-, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl-C_2-C_6-alkenylene-, C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl-C_2-C_6-alkynylene-, in which the cycloalkyl group may optionally be substituted, either directly or via a C_{1-4}-alkylene group, by -CN, $-CH_2NR_6R_7$, =O, -OH, OR_8, $-NR_6R_7$, $-NHCOR_8$, $-NHCONR_6R_7$, halogen, $-OCOR_8$, $-OCH_2COOH$, $-OCH_2COOR_8$, $-CH_2OCOR_8$, $-SO_2R_5$, $-OCH_2CONR_6R_7$, $-OCH_2CH_2OH$, $-OCH_2-CH_2-NR_6R_7$, $-OCH_2CH_2OR_8$, -COOH, $-COOR_8$, $-CONR_6R_7$, $-CH_2OH$, $-CH_2OR_8$, -CHO, $-SR_8$, $-SOR_8$, $-SO_2R_8$, $-SO_3H$, $-PO_3H_2$, $-SO_2NR_6R_7$, $-OCH_2-CH_2-OCOR_8$, -CH=NOH, $CH=NOR_8$, $-COR_9$, $-CH(OH)R_9$, $-CONHSO_2R_8$, $-CH(OR_8)_2$, $-NHCOOR_8$, $-CH=CH-R_{10}$, $-OCONR_6R_7$, $-CH_2-O-CONR_6R_77$, $-CH_2-CH_2-O-CONR_6R_7$,~~



~~or by 1,3-dioxolane or 1,3-dioxane which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted by methyl; or~~

~~denotes a group of the formula A-C_1-C_6-alkylene-, A-CONH-C_1-C_6-alkylene-, A-CONH-C_2-C_6-alkenylene-, A-CONH-C_2-C_6-alkynylene-, A-NH-CO-C1-C_6-alkylene, A-

~~NH-CO-C_2-C_6-alkenylene, A-NH-CO-C_2-C_6-alkynylene, A-C_2-C_6-alkenylene- or A-C_2-C_6-alkynylene, wherein A is a C- or N-linked 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring, 5- or 6 membered aromatic ring, or 5- or 6- membered heteroaromatic ring which contains nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur as heteroatoms and may optionally be mono- or polysubstituted, by C_1-C_4-alkyl, halogen, -OR_8, -CN, -NO_2, -NH_2, -$CH_2NR_6R_7$, -OH, =O, a ketal, -COOH, -SO_3H, -PO_3H_2, -$COOR_8$, -$CONR_6R_7$, -COR_9, -SO_2-R_8, -$CONR_6R_7$ or~~



R_5 ~~denotes~~ is C_1-C_4-alkyl, optionally substituted by OH, $OCOR_8$, NH_2, NR_6R_7 or $NHCOR_8$,

R_6, R_7, and R_8 are each independently hydrogen, an optionally substituted C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl group, a branched or unbranched alkyl-, alkenyl- or alkynyl group having up to 10 carbon atoms, ~~preferably a C_1-C_4-alkyl group,~~ which may optionally be substituted by hydroxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, amino, ~~substituted~~ amino substituted with[[,]] C_1 to C_8 alkyl, or ~~it denotes~~ --$(CH_2)_m$-$NHCOOR_8$ wherein m=1, 2, 3 or 4;

~~R_7 denotes hydrogen, an optionally substituted C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl group, a branched or unbranched alkyl-, alkenyl- or alkynyl group having up to 10 carbon atoms, which may optionally be substituted by hydroxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, amino, substituted amino, C_1 to C_8, or it denotes -$(CH_2)_m$-$NHCOOR_8$ wherein m=1, 2, 3 or 4; or R_6 and R_7 together with the nitrogen atom form a saturated or unsaturated 5- or 6-membered ring which may contain as heteroatoms nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur, while the heterocyclic ring may be substituted by a branched or unbranched C_{1-4}-alkyl group, or may carry one of the following groups: -$(CH_2)_n$-NH_2, =O, a ketal - preferably -O-CH_2-CH_2-O-, $(CH_2)_n$-NH-C_1-C_4-alkyl, -$(CH_2)_n$-N(C_1-C_8-alkyl), -$(CH_2)_n$-$NHCOOR_8$, (n=2, 3, 4), halogen, -OR_8, -CN, -NO_2, -NH_2, -$CH_2NR_6R_7$, -OH, -COOH, -SO_3H, -PO_3H_2, -$COOR_8$, $CONR_6R_7$, -SO_2R_8;~~

~~R_8 denotes hydrogen, C_1-C_8-alkyl or C_2-C_8-alkenyl or C_2-C_8-alkynyl optionally~~

~~substituted with CO_2H, a benzyl- or phenyl- group, which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted by OCH_3;~~

R_9 ~~denotes~~ is C_1-C_8-alkyl or C_2-C_8-alkenyl or C_2-C_8-alkynyl optionally substituted with CO_2H, optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted benzyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, and

R_{10} ~~denotes~~ is $-COOR_8$, $-CH_2OR_8$, $-CONR_6R_7$, hydrogen, C_1-C_3-alkyl, optionally substituted phenyl, $--CH_2NR_6R_7$;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates and prodrugs thereof.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of R_3 and R_4 is independently selected from the group consisting of SO_3H and PO_3H_2.

3. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 [[or R_2,]] is a C_1-C_8 alkanyl group, C_2-C_8-alkenyl group or C_2-C_8 alkynyl group which is optionally substituted by NR_6R_7, $-SO_3H$, or $-PO_3H_2$.

4. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein A is ~~phenyl~~ selected from the group selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, thiophenyl, thiazolyl, and tetrazolyl.

5. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein A' is phenyl.

6. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein:

R_1 is a C_1-C_8 alkanyl group, C_2-C_8-alkenyl group or C_2-C_8 alkynyl group which is optionally substituted by NR_6R_7 or $-SO_3H$;

A is ~~phenyl~~ selected from the group selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, thiophenyl, thiazolyl, and tetrazolyl; and

A' is phenyl.

7. (Original) The compound of claim 6, wherein at least one of R_3 and R_4 is independently selected from the group consisting of SO_3H and PO_3H_2.

8. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

~~3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-propylxanthine;~~

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-[(3-pyridyl)methyl]xanthine;

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-[(4-thiazolyl)methyl]xanthine;

~~3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-(4-sulfonoxybenzyl)xanthine;~~

~~3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(3-methoxypropyl)xanthine;~~

~~3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(3-dimethylamino)propylxanthine;~~

~~3-[2-[4-(6-Aminohexanoyl)aminophenyl]ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-propylxanthine;~~

~~8-Benzyl-1-propyl-3-[4-(4-sulfonoxyphenyl)butyl]xanthine;~~

~~8-Benzyl-1-propyl-3-[2-(4-sulfonoxyphenyl)ethyl]xanthine;~~

~~3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(3-sulfonoxypropyl)xanthine;~~

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-[(thiophen-2-yl)methyl]xanthine;

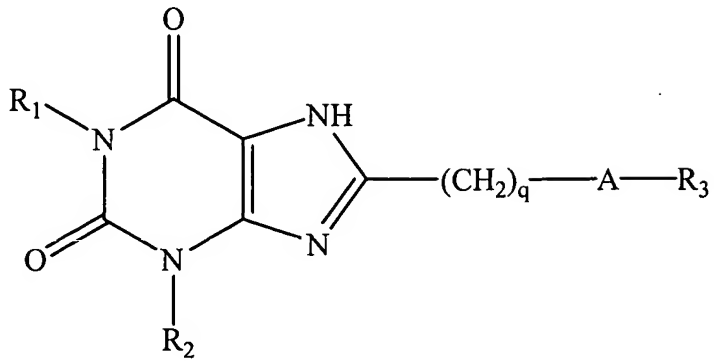
3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-[(1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)methyl]xanthine;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates and prodrugs thereof.

9-11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) A composition comprising a compound of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (New) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein:

A is a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring;

R_2 is of the formula (i):

$$(CH_2)_r\text{——}A'\text{——}R_4 \qquad \textbf{(i)}$$

wherein:

A' is a 6-membered aromatic ring or a heteroaromatic ring containing 0 to 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, and S;

r is an integer ranging from 1 to 20;

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of NH_2, halo, NHR_8, NR_8R_9, $NHCOR_8$, NR_8COR_9, COOH, SO_3H and PO_3H_2;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H, NH_2, $R_{15}COOH$, wherein R_{15} is an alkylene or alkylidene group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and $(CH_2)_tOH$, wherein t is an integer ranging from 1 to 8; halo, NHR_8, NR_8R_9, $NHCOR_8$, NR_8COR_9, SO_3H and PO_3H_2;

q is an integer ranging from 1 to 8; and

R_1 is a C_1-C_8 alkanyl- group, C_2-C_8-alkenyl-, or C_2-C_8-alkynyl- group which is optionally substituted by -CN, $-CH_2NR_6R_7OH$, $-OR_8$, $-NR_6R_7$, $-NHCOR_8$, $-NHCONR_6R_7$, halogen, $-OCOR_8$, $-OCH_2COOH$, $-OCH_2COOR_8$, $-SO_2R_5$, -S-R_5, $-OCH_2$-$CONR_6R_7$, $-OCH_2CH_2OH$, $-SO_2$-CH_2-CH_2-O-COR_8, $-OCH_2$-CH_2-NR_6R_7, $-SO_2$-CH_2-CH_2-OH, $-CONHSO_2R_8$, $-CH_2CONHSO_2R_8$, $-OCH_2CH_2OR_8$, -COOH, $-COOR_8$, $-CONR_6R_7$, -CHO, $-SR_8$, $-SOR_8$, $-SO_2R_8$, $-SO_3H$, $-PO_3H_2$, $-SO_2NR_6R_7$, $-OCH_2$-CH_2OCOR_8, -CH=NOH, $-CH=NOR_8$, $-COR_9$, $-CH(OH)R_9$, $-CH(OR_8)_2$, -CH=CH-R_{10}, $-OCONR_6R_7$,

R_5 is C_1-C_4-alkyl, optionally substituted by OH, $OCOR_8$, NH_2, NR_6R_7 or $NHCOR_8$,

$R_6 - R_8$ are each independently hydrogen, an optionally substituted C_{3-6}-cycloalkyl group, a branched or unbranched alkyl-, alkenyl- or alkynyl group having up to 10 carbon atoms, which may optionally be substituted by hydroxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, amino, amino substituted with C_1-C_8 alkyl, or is $-(CH_2)_m$—$NHCOOR_8$ wherein m=1, 2, 3 or 4;

R_9 is C_1-C_8-alkyl or C_2-C_8-alkenyl or C_2-C_8-alkynyl optionally substituted with CO_2H, optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted benzyl, C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl, and

R_{10} is $-COOR_8$, $-CH_2OR_8$, $-CONR_6R_7$, hydrogen, C_1-C_3-alkyl, optionally substituted phenyl, $--CH_2NR_6R_7$;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, and prodrugs thereof.

14. (New) The compound of claim 13, wherein A is phenyl.

15. (New) The compound of claim 13, wherein A' is phenyl.

16. (New) The compound of claim 13, wherein:

A is phenyl;

A' is phenyl;

r is 2;

R_4 is selected from the group consisting of NH_2, COOH, $NHCOR_8$, and SO_3H;

R_3 is selected from the group consisting of H, NH_2, halo, SO_3H, and $NHCOR_8$;

q is 1; and

R_1 is a C_1-C_8 alkanyl group optionally substituted by $-OR_8$, $-NR_6R_7$, or $-SO_3H$.

17. (New) The compound of claim 13, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-propylxanthine;

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-(4-sulfonoxybenzyl)xanthine;

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(3-methoxypropyl)xanthine;

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(3-dimethylamino)propylxanthine;

3-[2-[4-(6-Aminohexanoyl)aminophenyl]ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-propylxanthine;

8-Benzyl-1-propyl-3-[4-(4-sulfonoxyphenyl)butyl]xanthine;

8-Benzyl-1-propyl-3-[2-(4-sulfonoxyphenyl)ethyl]xanthine;

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(3-sulfonoxypropyl)xanthine;

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-(4-fluorobenzyl)-1-propylxanthine;

8-(2-Acetaminobenzyl)-3-[2-(4-aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propylxanthine;

8-(2-Aminobenzyl)-3-(2-phenylethyl)-1-propylxanthine;

8-Benzyl-3-[2-(3-carboxyphenyl)ethyl]-1-propylxanthine;

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(8-sulfonoxyoctyl)xanthine;

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(5-sulfonoxypentyl)xanthine;

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(5-sulfonoxypentyl)xanthine; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates and prodrugs thereof.

18. (New) A composition comprising a compound of claim 13 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.